**Prompt:**

Consider Twain's assertion in today's world. Are American's today more independent thinkers? Write a well-reasoned essay that takes a position on the validity of Twain's argument in the twenty-first century. Use appropriate evidence to support your claim(s).

|  |
| --- |
| My Claim (Starting point for thesis) (I should use an umbrella…) |

|  |
| --- |
| Grounds (What facts are on my side? People can’t argue with this!) (It’s raining…) |
| Some Examples I Could Use for Evidence… |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |

|  |
| --- |
| Warrant(s) (Connect my grounds to my claim!) (An umbrella would keep me dry…) |
| Any Examples I Could Use in Explaining My Warrant… |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |

|  |
| --- |
| Backing (Further explanation!) (Because of its impervious, water-proof material…) |
| Further Relevant Examples… |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |

|  |
| --- |
| Qualifications/Counter-Arguments to Address… (Unless there’s a hole in it or the wind breaks it!) |
| Your Reservations/Rebuttal… |
| Any Examples that You May Use to Illustrate This… |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | |

\*\*\*Important Note- You DO NOT have to come up with examples for EVERY box on this sheet! I have organized it this way to get you to think beyond the simple 5-paragraph-with-3-examples-in-the-middle format. Think about the purpose of EACH example you use. You may have a historical example that illustrates your grounds or a current event that elaborates on your qualification or rebuttal. As you brainstorm examples, think about how you might use each one and where it would fall in your essay.